

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Motor Boating

Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations

A motorboat, speedboat, or powerboat is a boat which is powered by an engine. Some motorboats are fitted with inboard engines; others have an outboard motor installed on the rear. An influential component of motor boater's satisfaction is simply the ability to access desirable waterbodies. Popular lakes, especially those near urban centers, draw many boaters and launches are often overcrowded on summer weekends. The state's plentiful water resources have a direct influence on the economy, job market, history, culture, and success of the Wisconsin tourism industry.

It is estimated that 90% of boats in Wisconsin are small, towable boats sized at 26 feet or less. This affects department standards on boat access ramp and parking design. In addition, the department is regulated by administrative code (NR 1.91, Wis. Adm. Code) on the number of vehicle / trailer parking spots available by the size of the waterbody. There are also a number of state and local laws on the operation and use of motorboats.

Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State

Motor boating is available in all parts of the state and is particularly popular along the Great Lakes, Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers, Lake Winnebago and associated lakes, and at the clusters of lakes found in many parts of the state (e.g., Minocqua, Waupaca, Madison, and Hayward).

Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation

The months of highest participation are June, July and August.

Participation

Participation Rate and Frequency

Based on a 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it is estimated that 45% of adult Wisconsin residents participate in motor boating. This ranked #14 out of 64 activities evaluated.

Days/year	% of Motor Boaters
1 to 2	33
3 to 9	33
10 to 29	20
30 or more	14
Total	100%

In terms of frequency, participants that engaged in motor boating did so more frequently than participants in most other activities (it ranked #18 in frequency out of 64 activities evaluated). Given that the season for boating is limited, this under represents the actual frequency of participation based on available days.



Estimated Trends

Nationally, motor boating is anticipated to have the highest participation rate of the motorized activities by 2030 (over 25%) and the only motorized sport to have projected increases in participation rate. Growth in income appears to be a significant factor in the participation increase (White et al. 2016).

Demographics

As can be seen from the SCORP survey results in the table below, participants in motor boating in Wisconsin are represented across age groups and tend to be rural men.

Demographic Category	Demographic Group	% Participation Rate Within Demographic Category	% Composition of Demographic Category (sums to 100%)
Age	18-29	52	24
	30-39	55	22
	40-49	51	17
	50-59	44	18
	60-69	34	13
	70 and older	25	6
	Total	--	100
Gender	Female	39	45
	Male	50	55
	Total	--	100
Residence	Rural	51	55
	Urban	39	45
	Total	--	100

References

White, E.M., J.M. Bowker, A.E. Askew, L.L. Langner, J.R. Arnold, and D.B.K. English. 2016. *Federal Outdoor Recreation Trends: Effects on Economic Opportunities*. United States Department of Agriculture.

